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Bioscope Group Hands-on Courses on Nano-based Proteomics

A sacred olive tree in ancient Athens was the silent witness of the first attempt in western culture to organize a permanent way to pass knowledge from one generation to the next. That sacred place was called *Academia*, as it is still named today, 2400 years later. It was Plato, Socrates' disciple, who mentored the ancient Academy: When knowledge is seeded in fertile minds, it blooms. In his turn, Plato's disciple Aristoteles founded the *Lyceum*, with the same purposes of developing and passing on knowledge. Today, the basics of many fundamentals in mathematics, physics, and philosophy can be traced-back to the ancient Greeks, as far as Democritus (2800 years ago).

Figure 1. Participants and instructors of the 5th Hands-on Course on Nanoparticles and Proteomics (June 22-24, 2015).

The very same concept as those behind the ancient Greek *Academia* and *Lyceum* drive the annual hands-on courses that are held at the headquarters of the Bioscope Group (BG, www.bioscopegroup.org; Faculty of Science and Technology of the New University of Lisbon). Located in the Caparica sea village, one of the finest natural places in Portugal, the BG courses offer a unique environment to learn the latest advances dealing with proteomics and with the making of nanoparticles.

Four different courses are offered, and all enjoy the active support by EuPA in the form of travel grants for participants. The courses cover the following subjects: (i) Sample treatment for protein quantification, (ii) Profiling of diseases using proteomics and nanoparticle-based proteomics, (iii) Protein quantification using isotopic labelling and (iv) Synthesis and characterization of nanoparticles.

BG courses typically go on for 3 days, and are primarily practical with each student working individually. E.g. students are taught to synthesize and characterize noble metal nanoparticles which are subsequently employed to reduce the complexity of the proteome of serum samples for profiling purposes. The teaching is done interactively by experienced PhD instructors, ensuring that all questions from the participants are answered at once during the practical learning.

The many emails of future candidate attendees for the next incoming courses reflect the popularity of the BG courses.

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